ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An Internet-based, secure communications system is utilized for enabling communications between a video game tester, project coordinator and others with a game developer. A master bug log which compiles all uncovered bugs is accessible by a game developer and other authorized system users via a web server, which stores bug tracking system applications programs and associated data bases. Such a master bug log includes a file attachment capability permitting a digitized image file replicating a video game display screen sequence depicting the bug, to be attached for downloading to, for example, a game developer. Bugs may be sorted, for example, so that a game developer can retrieve only those bugs having a digitized file attachment. Sorting may take placed based on any of a large number of fields entered in the master bug log. The present exemplary embodiments permit customized fields to be added and used as sort criteria. For example, in a racing game, bugs may be categorized and sorted based upon involvement with a particular vehicle or driver. Game and debugging related messages may be exchanged between testers, project coordinators, and corporate contacts. If the game developer normally communicates in, for example, Japanese, e-mail type format messages are translated so that significant game related messages may be promptly analyzed by all parties involved. An editing function is advantageously utilized to permit, for example, a tester to enter a bug description and a project coordinator to edit the tester's description. The illustrative embodiments of the present invention advantageously use multiple security layers to preclude one developer from accessing information related to a game under test developed by another developer.